

A WORD FROM PASTOR BJORGE



This is the time of year when we're most ensconced in darkness. But it's not just the lack of daylight that enfolds us in darkness. Darkness is spoken of some 200 times in the Bible. It's a picture of life apart from God, apart from His direction, apart from His wisdom, apart from His love and care. In darkness we blunder around. We hurt people. We become afraid. We lose hope.

There's darkness in our world. It exists where there's conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, Turks and Kurds, Russians and Chechens. It exists between Republicans and Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives, husbands and wives. It's a dark world. And that darkness is inside of us. We kind of get used to it. If our own lives are going well, we get used to living with darkness. But God doesn't get used to it.

"This is the testimony, that the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light; because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19) That's the human condition apart from God.

Maybe your life is going pretty well, but the darkness is not just in the world. There's darkness in us -- in you and me. It's a big deal to God. And it leads to isolation and guilt and loneliness. We get hurt by others and by ourselves.

As we begin now to move past another Christmas, remember God saw the human race—you and me—stumbling around in the dark—confused, ignorant, afraid, stained with sin. God sees this. He sees our world, and He sees our souls.

But get this:

God doesn't send a warning.

He doesn't send a rebuke.

He doesn't send a punishment.

He doesn't send an idea.

He doesn't send a religion.

He sends One who embodies all that the human race was intended to be and all of the love that God has for us.

He sends One who embodies all that the human race was intended to be and all of the love that God has for us. He sends a person. He sends His Son. He sends Jesus, and Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

And this Light is for you. No matter what you've done. No matter what darkness is in your past, you can live in the Light. That's God's promise. Happy New Year!

Pastor John M. Bjorge

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A WORD FROM INTERN PASTOR MOOTZ



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: ACT II

A seminary friend recently told of her daughter; she was playing Mary in the Christmas pageant. Apparently, at dinner, the four year old prayed the following: "Thank you God for this yummy food and help me to just sit and watch your baby really well."

What a beautiful prayer! "Help me to soak in the wonder of the moment." "Help me to bask in the glory of the impossible – God sending God's own Son to earth as a vulnerable child." "God risking everything for us!"

I love this time of year. In spite of the commercialization, we are surrounded by latent symbols of God's brazen act of love. We bring green trees into our homes to symbolize "The Life", decorate houses with lights symbolizing "The Light", and pass along gifts that represent "The Ultimate Gift." All in all, we re-

tell the story of this one event very well. However, as we move past Christmas, we should remember that Christ's birth wasn't just a one-time event.

It didn't just happen 2000 yrs. ago in a little town called Bethlehem. Since that time, this unexpected birth has occurred in the most unexpected places. Christ has been born countless times in the hearts of believers throughout the world. This repeated birth has given hope and life to all of us who didn't understand our relationship to The Creator. As we move past the Christmas season and into a new year, let us continue to share these stories of Christ's birth in our hearts. They are just as inexplicable as the original event, and they are significant. Our faith stories help the neighbor to understand how God works in this broken world. They demonstrate that the divine pageant didn't just happen 2000 years ago, but continues to unfold every day in our midst. That is the beauty of the Living God.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Thank you to all who donated time and pies to provide a Christmas dinner for the women of Mary's Place. We served the meal at Immanuel Lutheran Church again this year and used the experience from last year to be more efficient. We served about 100 meals in 10 to 15 minutes. The total meal count was about 350, but in the organized chaos, a firm figure was hard to determine. In addition to serving the meal on Saturday, people from First Lutheran and Richmond Beach UCC met in our church kitchen Friday night to do some of the prep work. We prepared the appetizer trays, pea salad and carved the turkeys. We also peeled 125 lbs. of potatoes to make real mashed potatoes the next day. Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus brought 4 and a half gallons of real gravy to go over them. The prep work really helped the next day with the short time schedule. Others made pies at home and we took down a total of 18 pies. Thanks to the cooks.

Volunteers were Alex Ashleman, Rick Ashleman, Sheri Ashleman, Kyle Gaul, Bruce Johnson, Frankie Johnson, Claire Kelly, Barb Matlock, Dan Matlock, Doug Olson, Karen Olson, Dave Rice, Colin Rudnick, Rick Rudnick, Jim Shilt, Pat Shilt and Vicki White. The other churches involved in preparing the food were Richmond Beach Congregational Church and First Methodist of Bellevue and the Knights of Columbus. Volunteers to help serve came from many other churches and groups in the Seattle area.

The Outreach Committee

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Not only did we meet the goal of providing 50 families with a Thanksgiving dinner, we exceeded our goal by 350 lbs of food. The extra food was donated to HopeLink. Great job!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year we had 115 shoe boxes donated! Thank you for your generosity!

HEIFER PROJECT

\$7420 was raised for Heifer Project in December! Special thanks to Evelyn Hutton for her organizing efforts!

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN AT MARY'S PLACE

First Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten Staff and families served 75 lunches on Monday Dec. 20th at Mary's Place in Seattle

We also brought in and passed out bag lunches the ladies and children could take with them. Over the past months the preschool and kindergarten families have collected back packs, school supplies, hats, mittens, small toys, books and pajamas for Mary's place as well. In the coming months we will continue to support Mary's Place with a coin drive.

CARING MINISTRIES

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Pastor John quoted Jesus in his Sunday class December 5, saying, we'll become a "house of prayer" when we first learn to recognize, "I'm utterly dependent on the power of God." What amazing things we can do this new year when we pray!

Prayers do not need to be fancy, clever, well-organized...they need to be heartfelt and partnered with God in His work. How do we start? We will each begin in our own way, as the Holy Spirit guides us. We might need to set aside a small period of time, perhaps the beginning or end of each day – or as we walk outside (I love to invite Jesus to take my hand and lead me in prayer as I walk!) Did a thought come to you that you should pray? It's Jesus inviting you to pray!! You can join a friend or small group to pray intentionally for each other. That's such a special way to build a friendship and relationship with God, and it helps us be accountable as well! It's so special to be prayed for!

Let's "practice" praying together! Sometimes it's more comfortable to have someone else pray and we can just say "amen"; sometimes it's helpful if you think about what you would like to ask God for, and then express your feelings. That's a prayer! Say it out loud – then it has been "prayed" and it's not as easy to be distracted by floating thoughts! Offer to pray for a friend or acquaintance – and do it! It might even be "Lord – hear this request of my friend and we lift this concern to you" – you DID it! A friend might share what God has just done in their life - "we praise you Jesus" Let us join God's mighty prayer warriors in this congregation and build this **House of Prayer** into service for Him!

IT'S CONFIDENTIAL

Our health care information! The "Church" doesn't know if you are in the hospital or unwell, because of "patient confidentiality"! If you would like a pastoral or caring ministry visit, the church needs to know. Please contact the church office or Pastor if you or your family member would like a personal visit to the hospital or care facility.

Prayer Requests are confidential as well. The prayer cord welcomes the opportunity to pray for you and/or your confidential requests. These prayer concerns go to a very small group, including the Pastor.

Many people desire prayer from as many people as possible! These concerns go to the prayer chain and are also published in the church bulletin and What's Happening (optional).



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our congregation has been equipped with Stephen Ministers for over 15 years. This is a one on one confidential Christian Ministry. If you or a loved one desires care, please contact Pastor John or our leaders Anita Riksheim or Cathy Thomas. Stephen Ministers are also available for confidential prayer on Sundays. Please look for the blue name badges, on Sunday mornings. Should your heart be heavy, should you desire individual prayers, a Stephen Minister will be available. The ushers can direct you as well.

MOMS PRAYER GROUP

More to follow – how terrific to meet weekly to pray with other Mom's and lift up our children, our families and our church congregation! If interested, contact Cathy Thomas 206 542 9161 or HCThomas@aol.com or the church office.



WE PRAY FOR...

We ask God's blessings and care for the following members and friends of First Lutheran who are ill or in need:

...HEALTH AND HEALING:

Lisa Everitt, Kirsten Atik, Dick Craig, the family of Nancy Dalan, Peggy Gruner, Andrew Leckie and his family.

...HOPE IN THE RESURRECTION:

The **family of Bill and Sue Davis** at the passing of Bill's mom. The **family of Ron Bannister**, dear friend of Shaelyn Morrison, on his passing. The **family of Jackie Park (mother of Sue Kimpton)** on her passing. The **family of David Cook** on the passing of his mother.



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

WOW—did 2010 race by!!! With the snow and the holidays December rolled by at top speed. The children celebrated with a Happy Birthday Jesus day in the Fellowship Hall. We had 4 Christmas Programs and the teaching staff served lunch at

Mary's Place on December 20th. As a school we collected hats and gloves for both adults and children and new PJ's for the women. We will continue to support Mary's Place through the school year. Our next project is a "penny" drive for them.

Coming up this month is Registration for the 2011-12 school year. I can't believe we will be looking toward the fall already! If you or someone you know is looking for a great preschool experience for a child, please send them our way. We have classes for 2 1/2 year olds—5 years and our Kindergarten for children who are 5 by August 31. We are closing in on our 39th year of service to Shoreline and Edmonds! Where does the time go???

Fundraising: If you received our Annual Appeal Letter and you donated to our tuition assistance program and our technology fund—Thank you!!!! We are able to provide assistance to many more children because of your generosity. Our teachers are becoming more and more "tech" savvy and a couple are going green by using electronic communication with their families. Thank you from the children, staff and parents!!! If you weren't able to contribute prior to December 31, you can start the new year off right by sending in your donation!!!

We will also continue to have our SCRIP program. It's an easy way to support the families and staff and shop while you do that! **OUR JANUARY ORDER DATES ARE JANUARY 7 AND 21.**

If you would like to visit us some day—we would love to have you!!!! Thank you for your prayers and support through the past year! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2011!!!

If you have any questions, please call or write
Kären Beasley, Director
206-546-0320, preschool@flrb.org



The Preschool & Kindergarten celebrated with games, ornaments and great snacks!



We made birthday crowns and poppers for Mary's Place!

JANUARY 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
OFFICES CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 2nd Sunday after Christmas No Classes Today 8:30 - Classic Worship 11:00 - Praise Worship	3 6pm - Cub Scouts Pk325 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Women's Bible Study	4 9am - InAsMuch 12:30pm - Staff Lunch 1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting	5 10am - Word Life Bible St 12pm - Lutheran Secretaries Lunch 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Carharts4Christ	6 11:30am - Writers Group 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	7	8
9 Baptism of Jesus 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 9:45 - Confirmation 11:00 - Praise Worship	10 7pm - Stephen Ministry 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Webelows Pk325 7pm - Women's Bible Study	11 9am - InAsMuch 1pm - Staff Mtg 7pm - Executive Council	12 10am - Word Life Bible St 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Bell Rehearsal 6:30pm - Carharts4Christ 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	13 10am - Mary/Martha Circ. 4pm - Autism Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	14 Surrend Life Immersion MS/HS Ski Retreat	15 Surrend Life Immersion MS/HS Ski Retreat
16 Season of Epiphany MS/HS Ski Retreat 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 9:45 - Confirmation 11:00 - Praise Worship	17 Office Closed MS/HS Ski Retreat Surrend Life Immersion 12pm - Deborah Circle 5:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Wrmn's Bible Study	18 Beachcomber Deadline 9am - InAsMuch 1pm - Staff Mtg 4:30pm - Finance Comm. 6:30pm - Endow. Comm 7pm - Church Council	19 10am - Word Life Bible St 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Carharts4Christ 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	20 11:30am - Writers Grp 4pm - Autism Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	21	22
23 Season of Epiphany 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - New Community 9:45 - Confirmation 11:00 - Praise Worship	24 7pm - Stephen Ministry 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Women's Bible Study	25 9am - InAsMuch 1pm - Staff Mtg	26 10am - Word Life Bible St 5:15pm - Children's Choir 6:30pm - HS Youth 6:30pm - MS Youth 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Carharts4Christ 7:30pm - Cantorei Choir	27 4pm - Autism Social Skills 5:30pm - Sounds Grace	28 Office Closed	29 9am - Retreat: Child/ Family Leadership
30 Season of Epiphany 8:30 - Classic Worship 9:45 - Children's Ministry 9:45 - Semi-Ann. Meeting 9:45 - Confirmation 11:00 - Praise Worship	31 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Women's Bible Study	DATES TO NOTE...				

SURRENDERED LIFE IMMERSION
FRI, SAT & MON JANUARY 14, 15, 17
Learn tools to walk in the freedom that Christ came to bring us.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
SUN. JANUARY 30TH - 9:45 A.M.
A time to evaluate where we are financially and decide on funding an intern.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL SKI RETREAT
JANUARY 14-17
Join us as we hit the slopes and have a blast! Lessons and rentals are available.

CHILDREN/FAMILY LEADERSHIP RETREAT
SAT. JANUARY 29TH - 9:00 A.M.
Calling adults who work with children and youth! Join in a leadership recharge day!

MISSION ENDOWMENT EVENT
SUN. JANUARY 23RD
Pr. Jim Leistikow will preach and lead us in a conversation on providing for the long-term mission of our congregation.

NEWS & NOTES

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

It is a tradition at First Lutheran to hold a semi-annual meeting each January. This marks the mid-year point of our fiscal year. It is a time for us to evaluate how we're doing financially as a congregation and to make any decisions regarding the formation of next year's budget. Since Luther Seminary needs to know in February whether we'll be hosting another seminary intern for next year, we will decide whether this is a program we can continue to fund in our budget and make that decision so that we can proceed with the seminary accordingly. **Join us in the Upper Room between services (9:45-10:45) on Sunday, January 30,** for this special meeting.



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND SUNDAY

On January 23, 2011 Pastor Jim Leistikow will be preaching at both worship services and conducting an adult education hour session on providing for the long term mission of the congregation through special gifts, wills and bequests. Jim has been providing expertise to synod congregations and individuals in this area for the Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium of Western Washington and we are very pleased to have him work with us. The Mission Endowment Fund at First Lutheran is only a few years old. Other

congregations have been working at this for many years and use the proceeds from their endowments to fund significant ministries within and outside of their congregations. There are many ways for members to make these gifts and plans can be constructed that accommodate a variety of personal needs, situations and objectives. Jim is an expert and it's a good time to learn and ask questions.



SARATOV MISSION

Our support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saratov, Russia, continues as we funnel donations to Saratov from congregations and individuals all over the US and Canada. We recently wired \$4,600 from these sources. The congregation is using part of the building for worship and meetings while it continues to finish the rest of the interior, and we just heard that at its 3rd Sunday of Advent service, the cross on the church roof was consecrated! Pr. Alexander Scheiermann was also able to find a lender, enabling the church to continue working on its building as well as paying off its debt. First Lutheran will not have another outreach

to Saratov until spring. However, if you are looking for a year-end project to support, we are still accepting donations and wiring funds. Just mark "Saratov" on your check or offering envelope.

THE SURRENDERED LIFE IMMERSION

The Surrendered Life team is especially thankful that we could share the good news of Freedom Ministry / The Surrendered Life with you this fall. Hopefully you have been able to share with others about the healing and restoration that has taken place in your life because of this class.

As you may recall, this ministry was started by City Central in Tacoma 12-13 years ago. On a shoestring budget and with generous gifts of their time, they have grown this ministry so that it is now taught around the world. We are fortunate to have Chris Hippe, and others from City Central, coming to First Lutheran January 14th - 15th & 17th for a Surrendered Life Immersion (this includes meal breaks and prayer times). Because City Central is doing the teaching, and they have basic expenses that must be met, the Immersion will cost \$175 per person/\$300 per couple. In addition to their time, that cost includes the manual, snacks, beverages, and prayer teams.

We were delighted to be able to bring the Surrendered Life to you this fall at no cost. We have heard from some people that it will be difficult to come up with all of the money for the class. Would you like to make it possible for others to attend by making a donation of \$25, \$50 or \$100 towards a scholarship fund so others can experience the healing you experienced? What a great and generous gift that would be! We have set up a scholarship fund at City Central and, since they are a non-profit, your donation would be tax deductible. Please prayerfully consider making such a donation before the end of the year. We are commanded to share the good news, to bring healing to others, what a wonderful way to do this!

UPDATE ON STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Almost half of our regular givers have returned their estimate of giving cards. From these responses, the total estimated giving would be 4.5% less than last year, an approximate decrease of \$30,000. This is very concerning since the budget has been pared down to barely cover expenditures, and giving has been low enough that our savings will be depleted in about a month. Those who are committing more this year are giving an average of 31% more, and those who are committing less are giving an average of 24% less. I ask that everyone would pray for our finances and consider giving a special gift during the holidays.

Yolanda Matheson, Stewardship Chairperson

JANUARY WORSHIP THEMES



JANUARY 2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

This time of year many ache and hunger for light! Christmas is the season of light. Christmas and light go together. Blinking, twinkling lights. Colored lights. White lights. Candles. At Christmas it seems we can't get enough of them. Why so many lights? John says in his Gospel, "Life itself was in Jesus, and this life gives light to

everyone." Today we are reminded that we have been called out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

JANUARY 9 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

At the baptism of Jesus, God said: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Who are you? Well, maybe for some of you that's still an open question. But let the question whose are you be settled once and for all. You are God's. God's son, God's daughter. God has made you so in your baptism. Today we celebrate the promises God makes to us and how they shape our identity.

JANUARY 16 THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" This was John the Baptist's declaration of faith upon seeing Jesus. John spent his life pointing others to Jesus. His finger was long and boney and never did he tire of finding ways for himself to decrease so that Christ could increase. Today we celebrate the One who sacrifices Himself so as to remove our sins as far as the east is from the west.

JANUARY 23 THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Today Jesus begins His ministry and calls His disciples to follow. Our following Jesus affects all that we do—including the ways in which we use our time, talents and possessions. In worship today we welcome to the pulpit Pastor Jim Leistikow. Jim will not only be preaching but holding an adult forum on planned giving sponsored by our Mission Endowment Committee.

JANUARY 30 THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Jesus says blessed are you when you suffer, when you mourn, when you hunger; blessed because it exposes within us a profound truth and that truth is that we can't fix all of life's problems on our own. We are blessed because it's when we come up against our own dead-ends that we realize we need One who is able to give us what we can't give ourselves. Today we focus the Beatitudes and consider what a blessed life looks like.

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NEWS FROM FAITH FORMATION

THOUGHTS FROM TERRY



This year is a new year with a brand new point of thanks to my new title, as Mommy. Jimmy and I talk about how what we want for our children is for them to be happy healthy and whole. For us that starts with God. With that in mind, I have been so grateful for our faith community. Liam is loved and watched over by the Grandmas to the little children. On a given Sunday, he is probably held by at least 20 different people, who range from the age of 8 to 88. I feel, as he gets older, if this influence continues, he will hear about God from so many different people with different points of reference. To me that is how faith is formed.

Faith cannot be taught. As much as we would love to be able to go to a class or send our children to class and come out being the Godliest, most faith filled people, it is just not possible. Faith is caught And how is it caught? It is caught through people and love. My favorite Bible verse and the one that has always been the center of my ministry, is 1 John 4:12 "No one has ever seen God but if we love one another God's love lives in us and is made complete through us." As a congregation, my hope is that we create opportunities for people to feel and give Gods love to one another, and help each other form our faith. How amazing would it be if everyone in the congregation had relationships with 20 different people ranging from the ages of 8 to 88? I know that I am very grateful to all of you who are helping to form my sons faith, and my hope is to help create a community that all parents feel the love and support that I feel from all of you.



NEWS FROM FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

January 2nd during the Sunday School hour there will be an epiphany event for kids in the upper room.

January 30th during the Semi annual meeting we will be having a special Sunday School for kids 3yr-6th grade in the fellowship hall.

Club 56 Sunday School will be studying the Chronicles of Narnia and learning the biblical principles associated with it.

Youth Group for 6th Graders!! Starting January 5th, 6th graders will be invited to join middle school youth group. Youth group meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING ON THE MOVE

Sunday School opening for kid's 3years-4th Grade will be moving upstairs. We will be meeting in our own special room. Go upstairs and down the hall towards the playground. This move will give us the opportunity to have our own

space and add activities to our opening. We will have a greater down stairs directing people to the new room. Parents please make sure you are accompanying your child upstairs or sending them with an older sibling who is 5th grade or older.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Each week in Sunday school, we take an offering. This offering goes to support our compassion child Abraham who lives in Africa.

CONFIRMATION CHANGES

Starting January 9th Confirmation class will be taught during Sunday School form 9:45-10:45am We will no longer meet after church.

Middle School Youth Group will meet every Wednesday form 6:30-8:30.



ELEMENTARY RETREAT

ELEMENTARY RETREAT AT CAMP LUTHERWOOD IN BELLINGHAM

(Grades 1-6) March 25-26, 2010 Sign up early because this is a HOT weekend! A 24-hour camp

blast that will leave you wishing for more and dreaming about summer! Cost: \$30 per person Chaperones \$20

LUTHERWOOD JUNIOR HIGH/SENIOR HIGH SKI AND SNOWBOARD CAMP

JANUARY 14-17 2011

Two days of skiing/snowboarding, great food, and camp?!?! After the long day on the slopes we will head to camp for hot chocolate, fun, and campfires. What could be better? Join us as we hit the slopes and have a blast! Lessons and rentals are available at an additional cost. See ya on the slopes!



We will meet at church at 4pm on Friday the 14th we will head up to Baker Saturday and Sunday and head home Monday afternoon. Youth need to be prepared with snow gear, snow pants, gloves, coat, hat etc.

Cost: \$260 All Lift Ticket Participants
\$160 non lift ticket participants
\$50 Non-Lift Ticket Chaperones
Dates: January 14-17, 2011
Permission slips due NOW

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

JANUARY 29TH - 9AM - 2PM

Calling all adults who are in leadership with Children or Youth!! We will be having a leadership recharge day in January. Please mark your calendars. More information to come!



THANK YOU!

Dear Pastor John and First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach:

Thank you for donating your Thanksgiving Eve Service offering to the Vision House Jacob's Well Project. This is a community-led partnership bringing Christian transitional housing, support services and child care to homeless children and mothers in King and Snohomish Counties.

Your gifts will help build Jacob's Well, a beautiful housing complex in Shoreline. This will be a safe, loving place where families will rebuild their lives so they can move from poverty and homelessness to independence and self-sufficiency.

Thank you! We are so grateful for this support!!
God Bless,
Susan Camerer
Vision House Executive Director

Dear First Lutheran of Richmond Beach,

We wanted to thank you for your generous donation of Thanksgiving baskets that support our Syre community. We have heard from several of the families you delivered baskets to how thankful they were to be able to provide their loved ones with a Thanksgiving meal that would not have been possible otherwise. And thank you again to Nancy Dalan for your time connecting families within our Shoreline School district to your church.

We greatly appreciate the outreach efforts and kindness of the First Lutheran of Richmond Beach community and on behalf of the families you served, just didn't want the 2010 year to end without expressing our gratitude!

Thank you,

Kim Kauffman
Syre Family Advocate

David Tadlock
Syre Principal



LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A Weekend of Discovery...A Lifetime of Love

Need a marriage recharge?

Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking your spouse on a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend**.

Upcoming spring dates in Tukwila, WA
at the Courtyard by Marriott:

February 11-13, 2011
April 1-3, 2011



For more information or to register via credit card visit the website at
www.GodLovesMarriage.org

Or contact the area registration couple, Carl & Dallas Anne Presley,
Carl.presley@comcast.net or 206-522-6849.

Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure that you can attend the weekend of your choice.

IN MEMORIAM

At the memorial service held at FLRB for Cindy Brovald on December 11th, guests were encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for HopeLink. The response was extraordinary! 750 pounds of food were brought in to feed the hungry in our community. It was the largest single-family donation made in the history of Hopelink.

What a lovely way to remember a dear member of our congregation on her passing! Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION



NEW COMMUNITY

SUNDAYS AT 9:45 A.M. IN THE UPPER ROOM

In our New Community Class this month Pastor John will be finishing his class on Moses and shift our attention to another great leader in the Old Testament: King David. The Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart. He just had this stubborn love for God. What if, after we spend the next several months considering David's love of God, what if God were to say of us, "This is a people after my own heart. They follow me with reckless abandon, and they worship me from the depths of their heart. And they loved with a stubborn love."

Join us this month. Classes in January will meet on January 9 (Moses), and January 16 (David). January 23 class time will be used by the Mission Endowment Committee for a planned giving event featuring Pastor Jim Leistikow, and January 30 will be the Semi-Annual Meeting. Beginning in February we will, once again, resume our weekly classes.

WORD OF LIFE

WEDNESDAYS - 10:00 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY

This class is a conversation based on the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday and is led by Pastor John and Intern Pastor Justin.

CARHARTT'S FOR CHRIST - FOR MEN

WEDNESDAYS - 6:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY

Join Alan Herr Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library

MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN

MONDAYS - 7:00 P.M.

IN ROOM 207

This class studies NT Wright's book on Colossians.

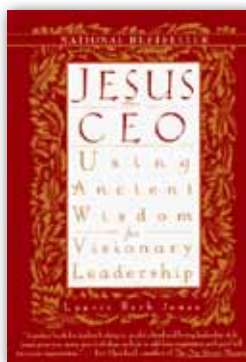
THE SURRENDERED LIFE

RETREAT JANUARY 14-15 & 17, 2011

Luke 9: 23-24 says,
"And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

There is no greater joy than this!

True freedom is found in surrendering yourself to Christ so that His will and purpose for your life will be lived out. Please join us for a weekend retreat January 14-15 & 17, 2011. We will learn how to gain freedom from strongholds or obstacles that are preventing you from living the surrendered life! Please register by contacting Anita Riksheim at 206.361.2725, anitamari@c.com, or call Kathy Johnson at 206.542.5251.



TO ALL MEN...

Are you looking for a way to apply Christ and his teachings in the workplace and your life? Come join us at the Richmond Beach Coffee House at 6:30am. Plan for a weekly interesting one hour discussion where we will talk about God, family, life and maybe solve one of the world's problems. Jim Smith will lead off with some of his favorite passages from the book "Jesus, CEO" by Laura

Beth Jones. No need to buy the book, just join us for coffee, fellowship and conversation. We'll restart our discussion on January 7, 2011.

2011 DAILY TEXTS ARE HERE!

This is a rich and wonderful booklet of readings and meditations for the whole year. Pick your copy up in the narthex, or at the Hospitality Desk. Cost is \$7 per copy.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome the newest members of our congregation: David Gibbs, Karen Saddler, and their daughter, Sophia Nancy Owen, and her husband, Harry "Rupe" Hilton. Nancy and Rupe come to us from Trinity Lutheran Church, over in Freeland, on Whidbey Island.

The
BEACHCOMBER

FIRST LUTHERAN OF RICHMOND BEACH

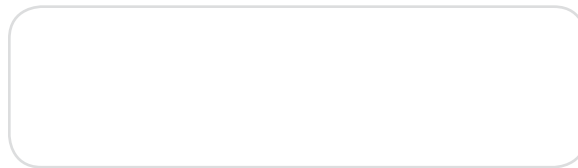
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SURRENDERED LIFE CONFERENCE

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

I can think of no better way to start the New Year than by coming to the teaching series being held at First Lutheran on January 14th, 15th, and 17th, on the "Surrendered Life". This is a ministry that teaches and equips the believer with tools to walk in the freedom that Christ came to bring us. The conference will be...

INSPIRING, CHALLENGING, TRANSFORMING, and the most ENCOURAGING way to start 2011!

REGISTRATION:

Anita Riksheim at anitamariiec@msn.com or 206-361-2725
Kathy Johnson at johnsonjk1@comcast.net or 206-542-5251
Cost: \$175.00 per person or \$300.00 per couple.
Time: Begins at 1:00pm on Friday, Jan. 14th.
Where: First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach
Scholarships are available.